

She makes us hold our heads proud

When Della Keats and some women from Kotzebue went to Juneau years ago to receive the First Lady's Volunteer awards they didn't know where to go from the airport.

After a time a Native lady came up to them at the airport and asked them if she could help. They told her why they were there and of their plight. "You can home with me to stay, I have room in my house," said the lady.

She then took them to the governor's mansion.

That is the type of woman who was the third recipient of the Special Recognition from the ANSWO recently.

"Bella Hammond has made us all hold our heads up high as she acted as the governor's wife and on her own, and before that carrying on the duties she has to do," said Emma Widmark.

"She holds her own and performs her duties with grace, dignity and just simple beauty."

Widmark said that Mrs. Hammond has repeatedly shown



Bella Hammond

her strength, wisdom and love for other human beings as she lived her life.

"She has also inspired my admiration because I see her set nets in the summer. She returns home to the things that are important to her because of her background and her enjoyment of Native cultural roots," said Widmark.